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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,732	12/28/2000	Matthew Graham Dyor	I	7582

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MATTHEW G. DYOR  
1910 T. ST. NW #33  
WASHINGTON, DC 20009

EXAMINER

FLEURANTIN, JEAN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/749,732

Applicant(s)

DYOR, MATTHEW GRAHAM

Examiner

Jean B Fleurantin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 December 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

***Detailed Action***

1. *Claims 1-7 are presented for examination.*

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheng (US Pat. No. 6,067,548) in view of Hanson et al. (US Pat. No. 6,463,461)("Cheng"), ("Hanson").

As per claim 1, Cheng teaches a system for managing personal information as claimed comprises a group tier comprising a plurality of group objects; (thus, a network for an organizational database to support collaborative computing between users within a computer network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects; which is equivalent to a user tier comprising a plurality of user objects)(see col. 3, lines 56-59);

a user tier comprising a plurality of user objects (thus, computing between users within a computer system network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects; which is equivalent to a user tier comprising a plurality of user objects)(see col. 4, lines 8-10); and

a second set of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects (thus, collaborative computing between users within a computer system network by an enterprise having a plurality of objects, the utility includes means for virtually linking each member object with relationship definition which can be dynamically evaluated and resolved at runtime of the utility; which is readable as a second set of relationships that define relationships between the group objects and the user objects)(see cols. 4-5, lines 65-7). But, Cheng does not explicitly indicate a group website tier comprising a plurality of group website objects; and a first set of relationships that define relationships between the group website objects and the group object. However, Hanson indicates the mail server 20 may also communicate with the web application server to validate the addresses of the various participants; which is readable as a plurality of group website objects, (see col. 7, lines 40-45). Further, in columns 8 through 9, lines 65 through 2, Hanson teaches once the electronic form 100 is created, it sent to the server 6, and then sends an email to the participants listed in the network address field 103 to notify the receiving participant that a zaplet process has been initiated. Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Cheng and Hanson with a plurality of group website objects. This modification would allow the teachings of Cheng and Hanson to provide the highest quality service based upon the participant's email application capabilities (see col. 12, lines 48-49).

As per claim 2, Cheng teaches a system as claimed, wherein each of the objects comprises a unique identifier and a plurality of attributes such that each of the objects may be uniquely identified from objects on the same tier and objects on different tiers (thus, the utility includes means for storing at least one member object corresponding to one of the objects in the enterprise, the member object having attribute and contextual values the utility also includes means for virtually linking the member object with a relationship definition which can be dynamically evaluated and resolved at runtime of the utility whereby access to the network is determined by the relationship definition being a pre-determined appropriate value; which is readable as wherein each of the objects comprises a unique identifier and a plurality of attributes such that each of the objects may be uniquely identified from objects on the same tier and objects on different tiers)(see col. 4, lines 24-34);

As per claim 3, Cheng teaches the claimed subject matter except the claimed a plurality of group websites objects. However, Hanson teaches the mail server 20 may also communicate with the web application server to validate the addresses of the various participants; which is readable as a plurality of group website objects, (see col. 7, lines 40-45). Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Cheng and Hanson with a plurality of group website objects. This modification would allow the teachings of Cheng and Hanson to provide the highest quality service based upon the participant's email application capabilities (see col. 12, lines 48-49).

As per claim 4, Cheng teaches a system as claimed, wherein the second set of relationships comprises a third type of relationship that defines which user objects are members of each of the plurality of group objects (thus, the work is defined by a procedure having a plurality of nodes with relationships defined therebetween; which is readable as wherein the second set of relationships comprises a third type of relationship that defines which user objects are members of each of the plurality of group objects)(see col. 16, lines 24-26).

As per claim 5, Cheng teaches a system as claimed, wherein each of the objects comprises an administrator group object attribute that determines an administrator group object that has rights to modify relationships and attributes associated with the object (thus, a unique dynamic interrelationship that expressed by using regular expressions over member attributes and contextual variables the relationship model is important in supporting collaborative software such as workflow for authentication, authorization and dynamic job assignment; wherein each of the objects comprises an administrator group object attribute that determines an administrator group object that has rights to modify relationships and attributes associated with the object)(see col. 5, lines 53-58).

As per claim 6, Cheng teaches a system as claimed, further comprises a profile tier comprising a plurality of profile objects (thus, each contact on the list can have profile attributes such as an email address; which is equivalent to a plurality of profile objects)(see col. 17, lines 59-60), wherein each of the profile objects comprises an associated user object attribute that determines with which user object a profile

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object is associated (thus, any one of the members 54 can relate or link to other members 54 through virtual links 56 which refers to attributes 60 and context 62, the context provides information about the application environment and is defined freely as variable by the user; which is readable as wherein each of the profile objects comprises an associated user object attribute that determines with which user object a profile object is associated)(see col. 6, lines 56-60);

an administrator group object attribute that determines an administrator group object that has rights to modify relationships and attributes associated with the object, and a plurality of personal information attributes (see col. 6, lines 48-53).

As per claim 7, in addition to the discussion in claim 1, Cheng further teaches, wherein each of the profile objects comprises an associated user object attribute, an administrator group object attribute, and a plurality of personal information attributes, (see col. 3, lines 23-25).

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Serbinis et al. US Patent No. 6,314,425 discloses "*a collaborative file sharing service and a workflow service...*"

### ***Conclusion***

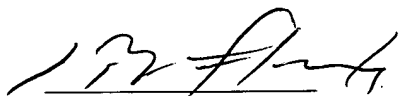
4. Any inquiry concerning this communication from examiner should be directed to Jean Bolte Fleurantin at (703) 308-6718. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. KIM VU can be reached at (703) 305-8449. The FAX phone numbers for the

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Group 2100 Customer Service Center are: *After Final* (703) 746-7238, *Official* (703) 746-7239, and *Non-Official* (703) 746-7240. NOTE: Documents transmitted by facsimile will be entered as official documents on the file wrapper unless clearly marked "**DRAFT**".

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2100 Customer Service Center receptionist whose telephone numbers are (703) 306-5631, (703) 306-5632, (703) 306-5633.



Jean Bolte Fleurantin

May 2, 2003

JBF



KIM VU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100